

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SSM-05 SIG-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 MCT-01
ACDA-10 /122 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----047520 160534Z /15

R 152229Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 193336

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - AUGUST 15

1.
FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 15,
1977. FYI ONLY THE OFFICER DURING THE BRIEFING TODAY WAS
HODDING CARTER.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE ISRAELI DECISION TO
EXTEND CERTAIN RIGHTS TO ARABS LIVING ON THE WEST BANK OF
THE JORDAN RIVER?

A. WE HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS. I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO
INTO ANY KIND OF PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF IT.
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Q. DID THE SECRETARY DISCUSS SUCH SUBJECTS DURING HIS
TALKS WITH MR. BEGIN LAST WEEK?

A. I AM REALLY NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO THE SUBJECT OF OUR
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS.

Q. WELL, CAN YOU SAY WHETHER THE QUESTION CAME UP SOME-
WHERE IN THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS?

A. I REALLY AM NOT PREPARED TO SAY.

Q. DO YOU REGARD IT AS ANY KIND OF MOVE TOWARDS
ANNEXATION OF THE WEST BANK?

A. I DON'T THINK I HAVE A COMMENT ON THAT QUESTION. WE
HAVE SEEN THOSE REPORTS AND WE ARE LOOKING AT THEM, BUT I
DON'T REALLY HAVE A PARTICULAR POSITION THERE.

Q. DOES THE LEGAL STATUS CHANGE IN ANY WAY AS A RESULT OF
THIS ACTION?

A. I JUST DON'T HAVE THAT, AS FAR AS WHAT OUR ANALYSIS IS OR WHAT THE LEGAL STATUS MAY BE OF THIS ACTION.

Q. WILL THERE BE ANY COMMENT LATER ON?

A. I WOULDN'T ENCOURAGE THE IDEA THAT THERE WILL BE.

Q. HAVE YOU BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OVER THIS DECISION?

A. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY DIRECT CONTACT. HOWEVER, I THINK THAT BEFORE THAT IS TAKEN AS A DEFINITIVE ANSWER, I HAD BETTER CHECK FOR YOU AND I WILL LET YOU KNOW.

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Q. YOU ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO SAY WHETHER THE UNITED STATES IS DISPLEASED, DISCOURAGED, OR PHLEGMATIC?

A. OR TROTting FORWARD? NO, NOTHING.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORT OUT OF BEIRUT TODAY THAT THE PLO, AT LEAST THEIR FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD QADDUMI, IS NOW SAYING THAT THE PLO IS WILLING TO ACCEPT A LINK WITH JORDAN -- A PALESTINIAN STATE LINKED WITH JORDAN -- PROVIDED THAT THE PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED FIRST AND THEN THE LINK WOULD BE ESTABLISHED. AND, SECONDLY, THAT THE PLO NEED NOT NECESSARILY ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, PROVIDED THAT PALESTINIAN NATIONAL RIGHTS ARE RESPECTED AT THE CONFERENCE?

A. NO. I HAVE SEEN THIS. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT.

Q. CAN YOU GIVE A GENERAL IDEA OF WHAT YOUR REACTION WOULD BE? I MEAN, THERE SEEMS TO BE A CONCESSION OF AN IMPORTANT SORT.

A. NO. IN FACT, IN ANY CASE, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT, AND I CAN'T ANTICIPATE WHAT IT WOULD BE UNTIL WHAT HE HAS SAID IS EXAMINED IN MUCH CLOSER DETAIL THAN IT HAS BEEN.

Q. HOW ARE YOU LOOKING AT THE REPORTS ON THE WEST BANK, IF YOU HAVE NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ON THIS?

A. WELL, WE READ THE SAME REPORTS EVERYBODY ELSE READS, FIRST.

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Q. IT IS JUST A QUESTION OF READING A REPORT.

A. NO. I AM NOT GOING TO TRY TO SUGGEST THAT THE ONLY INFORMATION WE GET IS ONLY FROM THE NEWSPAPERS. BUT I AM SIMPLY NOT PREPARED TO AT THIS TIME DISCUSS ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE SUBJECT.

VANCE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 15-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Film Number: D770294-0888
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, JO, PLO, (CARTER, HODDING)
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